



February 28, 2023

Members of the House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Head Start Association (MHSA) is writing to ask for your support of SF1176, legislation to expand early learning scholarships to children birth to age three.

Minnesota's Head Start programs, integral to Minnesota's early learning system since 1988, promote the early learning and development of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from our lowest-income families. We provide services in a variety of settings including centers, family child care, and children's own home.

Early Learning Scholarships have provided resources to help families with children aged 3-5 access Head Start programs, but we strongly believe we must start earlier. Targeting at-risk preschool-age children may be too late for too many. The earlier children's developmental delays are identified, the more effective interventions can be.

Thank you for your consideration of SF1176.

Sincerely,

Kraig Gratke  
Executive Director